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efforts to realize the Divine in himself lead on a strangely exact parallel line to the mysticism of the European "friends of God," but that the man is genuine, that his thoughts and teachings have searched out some of the innermost recesses of religious consciousness no one will doubt after reading the book. "As a lamp does not burn without oil, so a man cannot live without God," this is the key-note. And the Vedāntic road of reaching the knowledge of the "True" by devotion to it and forgetfulness of the world is pointed out with every resource of argument and wise saw: "She who has a king for her lover will not accept the homage of a street beggar. So the soul that has once found favor in the sight of the Lord does not want the paltry things of this world." Mystic that he is, Rāmakrishna is at the same time a man of the people; his sayings often have a homely, almost drastic flavor: "Man is like a pillow-case. The color of one may be red, another blue, another black, but all contain the same cotton. So it is with man—one is beautiful, one is black, another is holy, a fourth wicked, but the Divine dwells in them all." Above everything what shall we say of the liberality of mind of this dark-skinned teacher of Bengal who accepts the utmost consequences of his own belief in the Divine unity? Every man, he says, should follow his own religion. A Christian should follow Christianity, and so on. For the Hindu the ancient path of the Aryan poet-sages is the best: "It is one and the same Avatāra (divine descent) that, having plunged into the ocean of life, rises up in one place and is known as Krishna, and diving again rises in another place and is known as Christ." The past of India, not at all inglorious, may yet be followed by a more glorious future.

MAURICE BLOOMFIELD.

The Growth of Cities in the Nineteenth Century; A Study in Statistics. By ADNA FERRIN WEBER, Ph.D. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. XI.] (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1899. Pp. xvi, 495.)

THE work which has resulted in this book began in Berlin, where Mr. Weber was studying on the Andrew D. White Fellowship, and was prosecuted for months with the aid of the wealth of material in the library of the Prussian Statistical Bureau. Later the study was presented in this country as a doctor's thesis and has been amplified and somewhat popularized for a wider public. Its theme is, first, the dependence of the growth of cities, *i. e.*, compact groups of homes and work-places, upon the industrial organization and the occupations of the people (p. 314), secondly, a statement of such characteristics of city populations and city growth as have been statistically measured, and, thirdly, a discussion of the causes and effects of such concentration of population.

The book may be dissected into two main parts, that intended for the specialist and predominantly statistical, and that intended for the general reader and less bristling with figures. The latter includes a

chapter on the causes of the growth of cities (III.), another on the effects (VIII.), and a final chapter on tendencies and remedies, in all nearly a third of the volume.

The method applied, especially to the first and second topics, is the statistical, and in the care and skill with which it is used and in the wide sweep of the figures embracing nearly all civilized countries lie the main merits of the work. The theme is a familiar, not to say a hackneyed, one, but never before, at least in English, have methods of comparison and statistical induction been so systematically applied to it. Even in the simplest subjects, the field of international statistical comparisons is strewn with pitfalls wherein many an unwary novice has fallen. Most painstaking efforts and constant alertness are needed to avoid unsound inferences. In this book the necessary pains have been bestowed. Thus my eye looking at random over the pages lights upon a table (p. 266) showing for certain classes of cities in Austria, Germany, Scotland and the United States the proportions of the people born in the city, immediately about it, elsewhere in the country, or abroad. It is explained in a footnote that the immediately surrounding country comprises the *Gebietstheile* (provinces, etc.) in Germany, the *Land* or province in Austria, the native county or border counties in Scotland, the state or commonwealth in America. Work done after such a fashion will not need to be repeated. The thoroughness and breadth of its statistical method then deserve ungrudging praise.

In a study such as that of Dr. Weber, and in nearly all statistical work, the definition of fundamental terms is of primary importance. What is a city? Not a place surrounded by walls, for few cities now have walls. Not a place holding a special charter of incorporation, for this varies with local custom. Not a place calling itself a city, for the word in local use has no fixed meaning. There are many "cities" in the United States of less than five hundred inhabitants. The definition that Dr. Weber accepts, following the best statistical authority, is that, for statistical purposes, a city is a place having more than 10,000 inhabitants.

This definition was the best possible basis for the work he had in hand, but it seems probable that modern statistics is slowly feeling its way toward a better one. For the definition makes no limitations upon the area of the place beyond that implied in the fact that it is governed as a territorial unit. Thus under this definition, Greenwich, Connecticut, in which 10,131 people reside on forty-nine square miles, is a city, while Montclair, New Jersey, in which 8,656 people reside on six square miles, is not a city. Yet if in the two cases the population is distributed with equal evenness, it is clear that the urban characteristics of Montclair must be better defined than those of Greenwich. As the modern census finds it impossible to do what Dr. Weber not unnaturally desires (p. 17), viz. to report separately the population of areas not defined by public acts like charters, it seems not improbable that the difficulty just outlined will lead ultimately to a statement by census authorities of area, popu-

lation and density, side by side. In that case the line between urban and rural population could be drawn on the basis, not of actual population, but of population to a unit of area. Dr. Weber's objection (p. 10) that in such a case a group of farmers' houses crowded together like a German *Dorf* would be classed as a city is sufficiently met, I think, by saying that the area of such a village apart from the farms would seldom, if ever, be given separately and hence its density of population could not be reported. If this is not a complete reply, it might be found best to define a city for statistical purposes, by stating both a minimum population and a minimum density, but I am disposed to believe that the more significant criterion is density.

The great difficulty with all such statistical works as the present is that they are not strictly speaking books. A book is a work of art, it has unity and progress. The selection and rejection of material is guided by a consideration of the end which the material serves. That a man uses tables to further his argument in no wise relieves him from his obligations to his readers. On the contrary, he is all the more bound to grip and hold their attention, because his tables tend to shake it, in the same way that a lecturer who uses lantern illustrations may be less finished and careful in his writing or speaking, because of the aid the pictures furnish him. Only a few statistical writings can stand such a test; one thinks, for example, of certain speeches of Burke, or Gladstone, and *The Growth of Cities* is not of that class. It has not been fused into a whole. It presents the results of the writer's efforts to inform himself, not of his deliberate, persistent efforts to convince his readers. He does not carry his subject easily, but is a little oppressed by its magnitude and complexity. It is, however, a good compend, not a book, but a source of material; the facts regarding city growth have been carefully brought together and the statistical statements may be fully trusted.

WALTER F. WILLCOX.

A History of the American Nation. By ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN, Professor of American History in the University of Michigan. [Twentieth Century Series.] (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1899. Pp. xiv, 587.)

THE propriety of teaching American history in the final year of secondary schools is winning rapid assent; but until lately a serious hindrance to the introduction of the study has been the lack of suitable manuals. A new high-school book, therefore, and from Professor McLaughlin, is a notable event; and its appearance just now derives added significance from the author's services as chairman of the Committee of Seven on the Study of History in Schools. Scholarship and ability to tell a story we have a right to count upon always in the maker of such a text, but rarely indeed can we expect that pedagogical considerations will be weighed under auspices so propitious.

But after all a text-book is an evolution, and even from the best